



MAZONIA STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

Bass Lake (Mazonia Lake #3)

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Bass Lake (Lake #3) is located within the Mazonia State Fish and Wildlife Area Main Unit, 3 miles southwest of Braidwood in Grundy County on Illinois Route 53 and Huston Road.

DESCRIPTION – Bass Lake is one of the largest impoundments in the Mazonia North Unit covering 28.4 surface acres. It is connected by narrow, non-navigable channels to Big Dog and Woody Lakes. Bass Lake also receives water from the Mazon River during high water periods, which has resulted in diversification of the fish population. Shoreline access is limited by extensive stands of tall reed grass. Bass Lake has a one-lane concrete boat ramp and adjacent parking area. Bass Lake is closed to fishing during upland game and waterfowl season. Following the completion of the hunting seasons, it reopens for ice fishing dependent upon ice conditions.

HISTORY AND STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY: Bass Lake is surveyed on an alternate year basis. Fish stocking has included Channel Catfish and Northern Pike (discontinued due to poor results). Due to its connection to the Mazon River, Bass Lake supports many non-game fish species including Common Carp, Bullheads, Freshwater Drum, Longnose Gar and various Sucker species. Other sportfish species present include Yellow Bass and Redear Sunfish. *No special mercury advisory or other contaminant-related consumption advisories pertain.*

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Largemouth Bass catch rates slightly declined in 2020. While the proportion of adult fish over 12 inches remained largely unchanged, the proportion of adult fish over 15 inches (PSD-P) slightly declined as well. Even so, the PSD-P was still within the long-term average. The largest bass captured was just under 22 inches.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill catch rates remained the same in 2020, and the proportion of adult fish over 8 inches slightly increased due to the collection of a lone, large Bluegill (8.5 inches). Fish of all sizes exhibited a good body condition (or plumpness).

CRAPPIE – Crappie were omitted from the 2020 survey. Fish up to 14 inches have been collected in previous IDNR surveys, and average size has ranged from 7 – 8 inches.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Channel Catfish were omitted from 2020 survey. Non-Vulnerable Channel Catfish (8 – 10 inches) have been sporadically stocked in Bass lake since 1996. The most recent stocking took place in 2020 (n = 500 fish). Fish are requested on a triennial basis and stocking is dependent on availability from the state hatchery system.

ADDITIONAL LAKE INFORMATION: Trolling motor only

Additional Site-Specific Fishing Regulations:

All Fish Species: 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only

Large or Smallmouth Bass: 15" Minimum Length Limit; 3 Fish Daily Creel

Black, White, or Hybrid Crappie: 10 Fish Daily Creel Limit

Channel Catfish: 6 Fish Daily Creel Limit

CONTACT INFORMATION – Mazonia/Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area: 815/237-0063.
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.